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ACGLE EYE *news*

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School
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Letters to the Editor

Goodness Grape-cious

Dear Editor,

Why are green grapes better than red? Green grapes are calm, collected and crunchy, while red grapes are mushy, warm and dry. Red grapes do not taste as good as green grapes, and they do not give that satisfying feeling you feel when eating a green grape as an after school snack. Green grapes have a tarter flavor that gives off the perfect pucker and are the ideal “snacky” snack because you can eat as many as you want without feeling guilty. In addition, green grapes are the perfect projectile object. For example, mad at your friend? Throw a grape at her. Mad at your brother? Bite the grape and have a slimy one hit his back. Green grapes have superb precision every time. They are simply superior. Therefore, green grapes are better than red.

EMMA HERSHENSON, 11

Espresso Run

Dear Editor,

I think we should have a coffee place at school. I personally need coffee during the day and wouldn't at all mind paying for it. Plus, it would be a really profitable cause for the school.

However, I do think that the coffee shouldn't be overpriced, maybe around \$2 a cup. All the profits can go to a good cause, and hence, students can run it during their study hall for service hours. Even though \$2 sounds like it won't make any profit, an actual cup of coffee isn't worth more than a few cents. This would be a big incentive for me to come to school.

GEETANJALI SRIVASTAVA, 12

Passing Period Problems

Dear Editor,

I hate that we only have 6 minutes between periods now. I think they should give us more time between classes again, for a few different reasons.

As we all know, this school is overcrowded; the halls are always full between classes. This makes it hard for many students to get to class quickly.

Teachers usually tell us to use the bathroom in between classes, so we don't have to miss a part of their lessons to go, but I can't go in between classes without being late.

They are giving us less time to get to class and cracking down on attendance with hall sweeps at the same time. That doesn't seem fair to me.

Most of my classes are basically across campus from each other. For example, on silver days I go from the 1500 building all the way to the very back corner of the 700 building, then back to the 1500 building. It's difficult for me to get to my 700 class before the bell rings, unless I speed walk/run every second I'm not stuck behind other students in the halls. I just want to be able to walk to my class without being late.

MADISON RYAN, 11

Great American Novel

Dear Editor,

I cannot wait for the day the “Great American Novel” genre dies. Now, I am specifically referring to the male written and pretentious books fed to us students.

Reading 200 pages on how a man in the 1950s believes he is an outside thinker does not positively impact a learner's life. The themes within most of these books could hold value to teenagers today; however, most

authors glorify themselves.

These authors transparently portray themselves through the “heroic” male main character and ruin the message. Books under the “Great American Novel” are typically described as boring to teenagers as well.

Our education system needs to incorporate novels that students will care about, instead of holding onto poor, outdated relics of the past.

MATEA COHEN, 10

Where Credit is Due

Dear Editor,

I can't help but find it odd that we here at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School don't celebrate the person our school was named after.

Some of the students at this school don't even know who she was or what she achieved throughout her lifetime. I didn't know either until I decided to learn more for myself.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas was a writer, journalist and an advocate for environmental and social justice. She is most known for her efforts to protect the Everglades. She even wrote books about the Everglades.

One day, I came upon her book, “The Everglades: River of Glass,” by chance in our

school library.

Why don't we commemorate Marjory Stoneman Douglas the way she deserves? Learning about her bravery and determination has inspired me.

I want to see her celebrated and her books displayed proudly in our media center. I wish for others to learn about her and all that she accomplished throughout the 108 years of her life. Maybe we could even continue her work and protect the Everglades.

I am proud to attend a school named after her, and we should do more to honor her legacy.

ALANA KARAM, 10

Women's Rights

Dear Editor,

Why are men making decisions for women? A woman has a right to choose whether or not she is ready to be a parent, not just financially, but emotionally.

Men cannot relate to the struggles a woman goes through. They don't have cycles; they don't get cat-called and harassed by men who can't take a simple no for an answer. They don't understand the trauma some women go through.

The hatred for their body and now

carrying a child they never wanted. A man should have NO say in whether or not a woman has an abortion, but unfortunately in the world we live in, that choice has been stripped away.

Little by little, women are losing their rights. It's like taking a big step forward and 20 steps back. The fact that women had to fight for this law in the first place and again, fighting to keep it says a lot about how people view a woman's opinion.

NICOLE ADAMS, 12

Junior Lot Jam

Dear Editor,

One local problem I have realized is how horrible the parking and dismissal can get at MSD.

The last thing you want to deal with is sitting in traffic in the junior lot after a long day of school because people would rather block traffic then park in a space.

I think it is a huge safety hazard and has been an ongoing problem for years. Young student drivers shouldn't be tasked with

strategically driving through a small lot full of cars blocking the road.

They have a traffic director for the walkers, so why shouldn't there be one for the cars in the parking lot?

I think the solution to this problem is having cops that issue tickets and warnings to anyone who doesn't park in a parking spot. There should also be a traffic director to help drivers and make everything more safe.

JASON ROSALER, 10

Send Us a Letter

Have something to say about the school? Have something to say about a local, national or global issue? Have something to say about this issue of the Eagle Eye? **We want to hear your opinions.**

Email submission to: MSDEagleEyeNews@gmail.com

Submissions must be between 100-200 words

Boundary Battle

Dear Editor,

When going through the Eagle Eye News, I read the brief story on BCPS re-discussing of our school's boundaries. I didn't exactly know about the school planning on being rezoned, but after reading I now realize how serious it is. I moved to Parkland in order to get the good education that MSD provides, and now that is going to all change if I get rezoned. MSD has provided me with more than just a great education; it's given me the opportunity to participate in the renown Eagle Regiment and create new relationships. But how would that all change when all of a sudden, in the middle of my high school career, I'm moved. I hope you can see what other students think about this rezoning and how it would affect our school as a whole.

EDEN SHARONI, 10

Eagle Pride

Dear Editor,

Our student body has no school spirit, and it bothers me. “Eagle Pride Friday” does not seem to be a thing anymore. Where is our pride? We do not have a homecoming court. Why? We do not have regular contests for Mr. and Ms. Stoneman Douglas. Why? No one feels a sense of urgency to go out and show off their school spirit. Why? I feel like we are missing out on the high school experience.

It's football season, and we need bigger crowds that will genuinely cheer. Where are our Rowdy Eagles? We hear more noise from parents than students. That's a problem. We need our student body to be excited about games and to show support for the team, no matter the outcome. Our boys work hard, and we should commend them for that. In my mind, we should all come home from games with our voices gone. That would be the case coming home after your college team's game or your favorite professional team's game, wouldn't it? Why not for your own high school?

Show your spirit, and show it with pride. Students need to stop censoring their school spirit. Be proud to be an eagle.

MACY MEIS, 11

Unsubscribed

Dear Editor,

I really hate how many subscription services there are nowadays. It feels like everywhere you go, every corner you turn, a corporation is asking for a chunk of your income. With all the different brands wanting in on the pie Netflix popularized, it feels like the market is bloated with anti-consumer platforms where media is divided into different packages, where you need a guide to know what show is on what service, almost like how cable was. I don't want to have to subscribe to one service for Disney, another for adult animation, and another for whatever Netflix calls its terrible “original” works. Greed has ruined the good thing that used to be a good deal to save money on media and turned it into a rat race for who can have the “best” subscription.

SEBASTIAN VARGAS, 12

MSD *in brief* New developments occur at MSD

for your information

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS.

The National Merit Scholarship program announced their 2023 semifinalists; seniors Jason Choy, Nabeeha Haque, Rushil Kothur and Joshua Schwartz qualified.

"A" RATING AND IMPROVED TEST SCORES.

MSD maintained its "A" rating for the fourth year in a row. The rating is determined by cumulative standardized test results, which have also improved from 666 points out of 1000 in 2018 to 719 out of 1000 points in 2021.

VOLLEYBALL DISTRICTS.

The women's volleyball team competed in the district tournament on Oct. 18 and 19, finishing runner-up with a score of 25-22. After beating Spanish River High School in a tight match, they faced off against Boca Raton High School for the championship trophy.

PIG BOWL. On Sept. 29, the varsity football team shut out Coral Springs High School 34-0 in the annual Pig Bowl. As a result, Coral Springs Principal Vivian Suarez kissed the live pig brought to the game.

ISA FOOD FAIR. For the second year, the Indian Student Association hosted their Cultural Food Fair featuring foods from across the globe. Various clubs participated in the event bringing the food of their culture; 35% of the proceeds were donated to UNICEF.

MSD SPEECH AND DEBATE AWARDS.

In the first tournament of the year, sophomore Aesha Bhavsar won first place in Lincoln-Douglas Debate, freshman Samera Kathuria placed third place in Lincoln-Douglas, senior Allison Lam finished in Original Oratory and senior Kevin Hamm finished in Congressional Debate.

The first After School Tournament had four winners; freshman Colin Crippen, freshman Ayaan Rajwany, freshman Samantha Dinnis and freshman Sarah Rosaler all medaled. At the first South Florida Catholic Forensics League, juniors Victoria Zaharis and Cassidy Tarr won fourth place in Duo Interpretation, freshman Madison Hamilton placed third in Lincoln-Douglas, Kathuria placed third in Lincoln-Douglas, Hamm placed third in Congressional Debate and sophomore Aidan Tau won first place in Lincoln-Douglas. At the second AST of the year, sophomore Isabel Lopez medaled in Dramatic Interpretation, while Dinnis and Rosaler medaled in Public Forum.

GOLF DISTRICTS. The men's golf team won their district playoff tournament on Oct. 24 after a sudden death finish against Boca Raton High School. After the standard tournament

finished in a tie between the top two schools, senior TJ Thompson defeated his Boca opponent by 1 stroke to give the Eagles the win.

CROSS COUNTRY DISTRICTS.

Both the men's and women's cross country teams advanced to regional playoffs after finishing eighth and fifth, respectively, in district match on Oct. 19. The teams were led by junior Ella Schwartz and sophomore Emery Jackson.

SWIMMING DISTRICTS.

MSD placed as the runner-up team in the district championship for swimming on Oct. 19. Both the men's and women's teams advanced to the regional match after placing eighth and fourth place respectively

REPORTING BY Kate Becker, Reece Gary and Brynn Schwartz



CAUGHT IN THE HERD. Students at MSD have shorter passing periods in the new school year. Some find it more difficult to make it to class on time with only 6 minutes.
GRAPHIC BY Dhaanya Balaji

out of time

BCPS reduces hallway passing time to add instructional minutes

When Broward County Public Schools first implemented the A/B block schedule, students had an 8-minute passing period between classes, but this year, the district has reduced passing time to 6 minutes.

Before the implementation of the block schedule, MSD had a straight 7 schedule that allowed a 5-minute passing period between each class. When the school voted to switch

to the newly developed A/B block schedule, a "personalization period" was added. This was intended to allow students to receive extra help from teachers while simultaneously providing them time to work on homework.

However, the Florida Department of Education does not consider this time to be instructional, which was made clear in a March 2020 audit, where the state informed the district

that seniors had too little instructional time to graduate.

State law requires that students spend a total of 900 hours per school year in class. To fix the missing instructional time, the district implemented 91-minute classes with a 7-minute passing period last school year, instead of the 90-minute classes that the district had scheduled in previous years.

Despite these arrangements, the state found that seniors still did not have the required 900 yearly hours. Typically, seniors finish high school after their final exam week in late May, leaving only the underclassmen in school during the last couple of weeks. However, due to the missing hours, seniors last year were required to continue attending class even after their exams were over.

To allow seniors to resume finishing before the underclassmen, classes have been changed to 92-minutes, leaving students only 6 minutes to pass between classes.

"I think it's just a little bit of an adjustment. It is only one minute per class," Assistant Principal Daniel Lechtman said. "If I were a teacher, I don't think it would affect me at all. It only affects the kids the first week of school [who] were saying 'oh, I can't get to class in 6 minutes,' yet they do."

Despite the bell schedule changing by only a minute, some students have found it difficult to travel to buildings that are far from each other, such as the 1500 building and 700 building, especially considering the crowded hallways.

"I have to avoid major intersections in order to get to class on time, so typically going ways that would take me longer and that are further

from my classes," junior Macy Meis said. "I have to take those routes in order to get to class, which is kind of frustrating. The first day of school, I was definitely late many times, so I had to find [less crowded] routes in order to get to class on time."

Although several students are upset by this change in scheduling, Lechtman points out that this "gray cloud" may have a "silver lining."

"[Students] can't stop and linger for that extra 2 minutes that they used to," Lechtman said. "And [administration] gets it that kids need hallway time, but—positives, it creates less discipline infractions in the hallway because kids got a purpose now—'Got to go, I can't sit and cause trouble.'"

In addition to having two minutes added to classes, BCPS has also limited the number of Professional Study Days that high schoolers get this year. Previously, high schools had a PSD the first Thursday of every month for a total of eight. On PSDs, students leave at 11:40 a.m. instead of 2:40 p.m., allowing them time to study or obtain service hours, and providing teachers three hours to collaborate, plan instruction, and receive professional development. This year, there are only four.

"It is harder for us to plan what we want as goals. If we are trying to plan a goal for a semester, only having four PSDs tends to be harder when we don't have time to plan," English teacher Chelsea Briggs said.

As the new school year kicks off, students and faculty alike are learning to adjust to the new scheduling changes.

STORY BY Julia Landy

making changes

Gov. DeSantis removes and replaces four BCPS school board members following release of a 2021 grand jury report

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis removed and replaced four BCPS school board members, following the release of a 2021 grand jury report and their subsequent recommendation to remove the board members for mismanagement and general failure in their duties as board members.

The grand jury singled out five members of the school board: Patricia Good, Donna Korn, Ann Murray, Rosalind Osgood and Laurie Rich Levinson, all “[Former Superintendent Robert] Runcie-friendly Board members.” Osgood resigned in March 2022 to run for the Florida Senate.

School Board Members Nora Rupert, Lori Alhadeff, Sarah Leonardi and Deborah Hixon did not participate “in the misdeeds of their peers,” as they fought against Runcie’s actions or were not on the board at the time.

In a controversial move, DeSantis appointed Torey Alston, the former chief of staff for the Florida Department of Transportation, Manuel A. Serrano, a board member for the Florida Sports Foundation, Ryan Reiter, a veteran who formerly worked as a government services manager for the Broward County Children Services Council, and Kevin Tynan, who was appointed to the school board in 2009, on Aug. 26 in place of the removed members.

Though not much is known about his selections, some Broward Democrats feel that DeSantis overturned the will of voters, since Broward is a typically Democratic-leaning county and all four of his appointees are registered Republicans.

They see replacing the school board members with people that align with his political views as a politically motivated action, rather than an action appropriate to the situation.

All four new school board members were

sworn in on Aug. 30. Korn was already scheduled to compete in a runoff election, as her term was up and nearly tied with Center for Human Capital Innovation CEO Allen Zeman.

After the runoff is complete in November, Serrano, Reiter and Tynan will be replaced.

Alston has replaced Good for the remainder of her term, which is two years, and currently sits as chair of the BCPS school board.

In 2019, the jury was asked to investigate four issues regarding statewide school safety, following the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018 that left 17 dead.

Specifically, the jury examined if a failure to follow mandates created by school safety laws put students and staff at risk and whether any governmental body committed fraud or deceit by knowingly mishandling state funds that were intended for the implementation of specific safety measures.

The jury also examined whether school officials have in the past or are actively violating state law by “systemically underreporting incidents of criminal activity to the Department of Education.”

The jury report found that the BCPS school board has not properly used the SMART program, which was an \$800 million taxpayer passed bond intended to be invested in safety, music, the arts, athletics, renovations and technology.

Findings from the report said Runcie had mismanaged the funds “through deceit, malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty and incompetence.”

The grand jury primarily focused the report on the “safety” and “renovations” aspects of the



NEW FACES. The four new Broward School Board members, appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis after suspending four sitting board members: Kevin Tynan, Ryan Reiter, Torey Alston and Manuel Nandy Serrano. COURTESY OF Jose A. Iglesias/TNS.

program, citing the fact that the failures in other areas were not “of nearly the same magnitude.”

The report stated that, to this day, BCPS students continue to be educated in “unsafe, aging, decrepit, moldy buildings that were supposed to have been renovated years ago.”

“How [did] we get to the point where it became about the people in the K.C. Wright building and not the kids in the classroom and the teachers in the classroom?” an unnamed witness quoted in the grand jury report asked.

The jury’s report states that BCPS failed to plan for any issues they may run into with the SMART Program, which they asserted was not for a lack of knowledge or awareness.

They also claim BCPS failed to lead and inform the public and the school board of any negative information about the SMART Program and were ineffective in holding those responsible accountable.

The jury targeted other “lies” to the public, including how Runcie lied after the MSD shooting by saying the shooter had never been involved with the PROMISE Program, a BCPS initiative serving as an alternative to juvenile detention for students that committed nonviolent infractions.

The jury also found that the fire alarm at MSD was known, since 2014, to need upgrading which was when BCPS first requested the \$800 million in bond money for the SMART Program. The specific upgrades were intended to ensure that the alarms would be installed with a 40-second delay, allowing administrators to discern whether the alarm was genuine or caused by some other event. The upgrade was considered low-priority for BCPS.

The absence of that feature led students at MSD on Feb. 14, 2018 to believe the fire alarm was genuine, ultimately putting them in danger when they exited their classrooms in the midst of the shooting.

Despite this, the jury found that several schools in Broward County still have not implemented the new fire alarm feature.

“Broward County Public Schools is a school district full of hard-working employees, bright and engaged teachers and 260,000 students who deserve the best from our community,” the grand jury report said. “We owe it to the teachers and students to install leaders that will root out the long-time employees who have been corrupted by the culture of [BCPS].”

STORY BY Brynn Schwartz

straight forward

BCPS renames emergency codes for coherent understanding

Broward County Public Schools altered the emergency codes used on school campuses to codes that are in “plain language.”

The various emergency codes used on a school campus, specify the procedures students, staff and visitors should follow. The terms used to be color coded, each representing specific instructions.

However, these terms were seen as less clear than the alternative “plain language” terms, which could result in unsafe situations for students and staff. Color coded names can be especially confusing for visitors on campus who are less experienced with their meanings than staff and students.

BCPS partnered with the “I Love U Guys” foundation and announced the updates to their emergency vocabulary for the beginning of the school year.

Ellen and John-Michael Keys established the foundation in 2006 after the loss of their daughter, Emily Keys, in a school shooting.

Their mission is to “restore and protect” youths through collaborations between schools, parents, and organizations. It is supported by survivors and first responders and is dedicated to improving school safety.

The “plain language” terms and their definitions are intended to be straight to the point and intuitive in an emergency.

A code red became a “lockdown.” According to the “Standard Response Protocol Parent Handout,” a lockdown represents the phrase “Locks, Lights, Out of Sight.” Students must remain silent, hide in designated safe zones, and not open the door for anyone. Adults and staff must try and recover students from the hallways if it is possible, lock classroom doors, stay silent, turn off all lights, move from sight and prepare for defense or evacuation.

“Lockdown is a much more straightforward code name, which could save people some confusion during emergency situations,” junior Karen Liu said.

“Secure” codes, previously code yellows, are

used if there is a threat near the school. Secure represents “Get inside. Lock the doors;” classes are continued as usual with limited entry and exit. Students are to return to the inside of the building, and continue to tasks and lessons as usual. Adults and staff members are trained to bring everyone indoors, lock the doors, be aware of all surroundings, account for students and adults in their classroom, office, or area and to continue teaching as usual.

The term “hold” was also added in place of a code yellow. This requires that students clear hallways and remain in classrooms, doing business as usual, and is used when there are incidents, like a medical emergency, occurring somewhere on campus and administration needs the hallways to be empty.

“Terms like code yellow could be confusing for visitors on campus because it is very vague and doesn’t give any hints as to protocol or what it means,” junior Nicholas Montenegro said.

The plain language for emergencies like tornadoes, earthquakes and hurricanes are now called “shelter,” which represents the “State Hazard and Safety Strategy.” The safety strategy depends on the severity and the type of disaster. Students are trained to follow teacher or adult instructions, while adults account for those in their area and report problems and injuries.

Formally known as a code black, “Evacuate,”

IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION


HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.	
<p>STUDENTS Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the “All Clear” is announced. Do business as usual.</p>	<p>ADULTS Close and lock the door. Account for students and adults. Do business as usual.</p>
SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.	
<p>STUDENTS Return to inside of building. Do business as usual.</p>	<p>ADULTS Remove students from hallway if possible. Lock classroom door. Turn out the lights. Move away from sight. Maintain silence. Do not open the door. Prepare to read or defend.</p>
LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.	
<p>STUDENTS Move away from sight. Maintain silence. Do not open the door.</p>	<p>ADULTS Remove students from hallway if possible. Lock classroom door. Turn out the lights. Move away from sight. Maintain silence. Do not open the door. Prepare to read or defend.</p>
EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)	
<p>STUDENTS Leave staff behind if required to if possible, bring your phone. Follow instructions.</p>	<p>ADULTS Lead students to Evacuation location. Account for students and adults. Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults.</p>
SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.	
<p>STUDENTS Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard. Hazard Safety Strategy Tornado Evacuate to shelter area Hurricane Seek the room Earthquake Drop, cover and hold Tsunami Get to high ground</p>	<p>ADULTS Lead safety strategy. Account for students and adults. Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults.</p>

represents leaving campus for a safer location in a situation like a gas leak or a bomb threat.

To ensure students were aware of the change, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School teachers gave presentations in their first period classes on the new terms.

Terms will continue to be frequently practiced with students and staff so they can become familiar and comfortable with the changes. The goal remains to make sure everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.

STORY BY Alison Latorre



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MSD's Midterm

MSD students prepare for crucial 2022 midterm elections

Mindset

Called “[possibly] the most important elections of our lifetime” by MSNBC host Joy Ann Reid, the 2022 midterm elections are quickly approaching and will likely define the next two years of the Biden presidency, as well as shape state laws that could last for decades. The election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 8 nationwide.

The midterm elections come at a time of increased political activity, partisanship and crises. In 2022 alone, Americans have witnessed and dealt with the ongoing war in Ukraine, over 500 mass shootings, an inflation rate at 8.3% in August, and the controversial Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and place the power to determine abortion laws back in states’ hands.

Along with the “Biden v. Trump rematch,” as a Bloomberg article described it, all of those issues are expected to shape the 2022 midterm elections.

“It has almost been two years into Joe Biden’s presidency and the victory that the Democrats gained in 2020,” junior Saed Murad said. “With their chances of a strong political victory waning, Republicans are now preparing for a counterattack, which they may very well win once the result of the 2022 midterm elections is decided. I believe that this midterm election will act as a turning point in the political struggle that is occurring right now.”

Historically, the party that loses the presidency wins big in that term’s midterm election. In 2018, two years after Trump won the 2016 presidential elections, Democrats made big gains in the U.S. House of Representatives after rallying their party against actions made by the Republican-led executive and legislative branches.

Republicans are expected to gain majorities in the House and Senate seats this midterm election, proving this phenomenon again. Following the off-year elections in which Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin was elected as governor of Virginia and Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy narrowly defeated his Republican opponent, the future seems bleak for Democrats.

The predicted “red wave” would follow a largely unproductive two years for Congress, with several of Biden’s proposals getting “stuck” in the split Senate, drawing Republican criticism and calls to flip Congress to Republican control.

“[I] hate the president; he’s a robot and is being controlled. He hasn’t done anything good for our country,” freshman Maci Norkunas said. “All he has done is make it go downhill and nothing is improving. He doesn’t even know what he is saying half the time. He’ll say one thing and then the next day, disagree with that.”

However, Biden’s agenda recently had several successes. Gas prices lowered after peaking in July at over \$5 a gallon, and West Virginia Sen.

Joe Manchin reversed his vote on Biden’s tax and climate bill, allowing for its passage.

“Our current administration is much better than our last administration. President Biden has gotten most of our country vaccinations against COVID,” freshman Sydney Davidson said. “The market is hot. The child poverty levels are lower than ever... Infrastructure like no other is sweeping our country into a new frontier.”

The increased spirits and optimism are enough for people to wonder if Democrats are gaining enough ground in the midterms to possibly hold onto their Senate and House majority. However, some experts are cautioning Democrats not to be overly hopeful, as Republicans still have a lot of momentum with

the economy and inflation as a central issue to the majority of voters. In a survey of 347 MSD students, 61% of students said the economy was an important issue to them.

Though these recent successes likely contribute to Democrats’ increased momentum, the most important issues by far to MSD students are gun violence and abortion, at 77% and 70% respectively.

Abortion is especially contentious in Florida, where the state legislature’s Republican majority passed a 15-week abortion ban in April that took effect in July. The law has been a target of several lawsuits, most regarding a violation of religious freedom or Florida’s unique privacy amendment that states people have the right to be “free from governmental intrusion into the person’s private life.”



I believe that this midterm election will act as a changing point in the political struggle that is occurring right now.

Saed Murad, 11

“I don’t agree with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and how it may affect certain state bills and laws,” freshman Samantha Dinnis said.

Current Florida laws are a contentious issue on both sides, as Republicans largely champion recent actions by the state government, including the abortion ban, the “Stop WOKE Act,” or the “Don’t Say Gay” law. Democrats are largely critical of Florida Republican’s actions and demand a change in Florida leadership.

“I definitely think that on the state level



FACING OFF. Democrat Charlie Crist and Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis both campaigned for votes in Broward the week of Oct. 20. Crist was at Kings Point in Tamarac and DeSantis was at a Broward Republican dinner in Weston.
PHOTO PERMISSION Amy Beth Bennett & Joe Burbank/Tribune News Service

there is a huge increase and, honestly, [there] has always been a conservative dominated way of thinking when it comes to specific political issues,” senior Noldine Belizaire said. “Obviously Florida is a red state, but this definitely makes the everyday lifestyle extremely difficult for minorities and marginalized groups.”

In particular, Democrats hope to replace Sen. Marco Rubio and Gov. Ron DeSantis in November. Rubio is seeking re-election, facing challenges from Rep. Val Demings, as well as two independent candidates and one Libertarian candidate.

Rubio’s term has also been controversial. He was slammed at the Parkland March for Our Lives Rally for alleged “inaction” on gun violence following both the shooting at MSD and the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

Rubio is on the top ten list of senators who have received the most money from the NRA—a total of \$3,303,355.

“Gun violence [is the most important issue to me] because it has destroyed many

lives and is still not being handled properly,” sophomore Melanie Anaya said.

The Florida gubernatorial race is a fierce contest that even people outside of Florida are watching closely, as DeSantis breaks records in gubernatorial candidate fundraising. His term has been shaped by contention. DeSantis is a favorite in the Republican party and is often discussed as a potential Republican presidential nominee for 2024, though Democrats are often enraged at his actions.

That same contention echoes in the survey of MSD students, which shows 17.6% support DeSantis, while 18.2% support his Democratic opponent, former Florida Gov. Charlie Crist. The rest of the students polled do not know enough about the race or have no opinion.

According to the survey, some MSD students did not care who became governor as long as it is not DeSantis, saying “not DeSantis” or “anyone but DeSantis.” Others disliked all candidates.

“I generally don’t agree with the statements that DeSantis makes, but have not done research on his opponents to see if I agree with them,” sophomore Charlotte James said. “I don’t want to just choose the Democrats and back them no matter what they say, I want to know on a candidate by candidate basis.”

James’ feelings that she lacks enough research is a common experience among MSD students. The survey found consistently that MSD students report not knowing enough about political races; 59% do not know enough about the gubernatorial race; 62% do not know enough about the Florida senate race, and 69% do not know enough about the U.S. House races.

A common sentiment among students was that they were reasonably informed on national politics, but did not feel very aware in regards to state and local politics.

It is unclear how the 2022 midterm elections will play out, though it is certain that it will determine local and state laws for years to come and how the rest of the Biden presidency will play out.

STORY BY Brynn Schwartz



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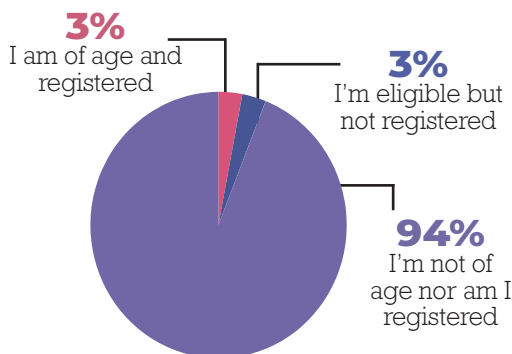


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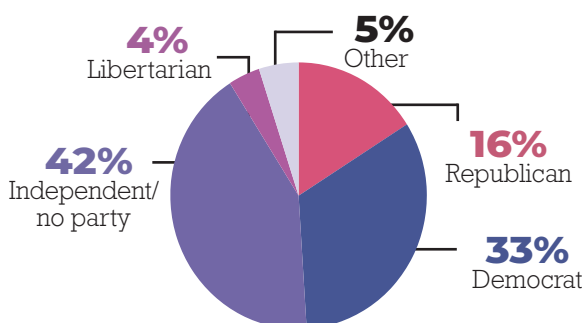
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Taking a Poll

Eagle Eye poll reflects MSD student opinions on upcoming midterm elections and national politics



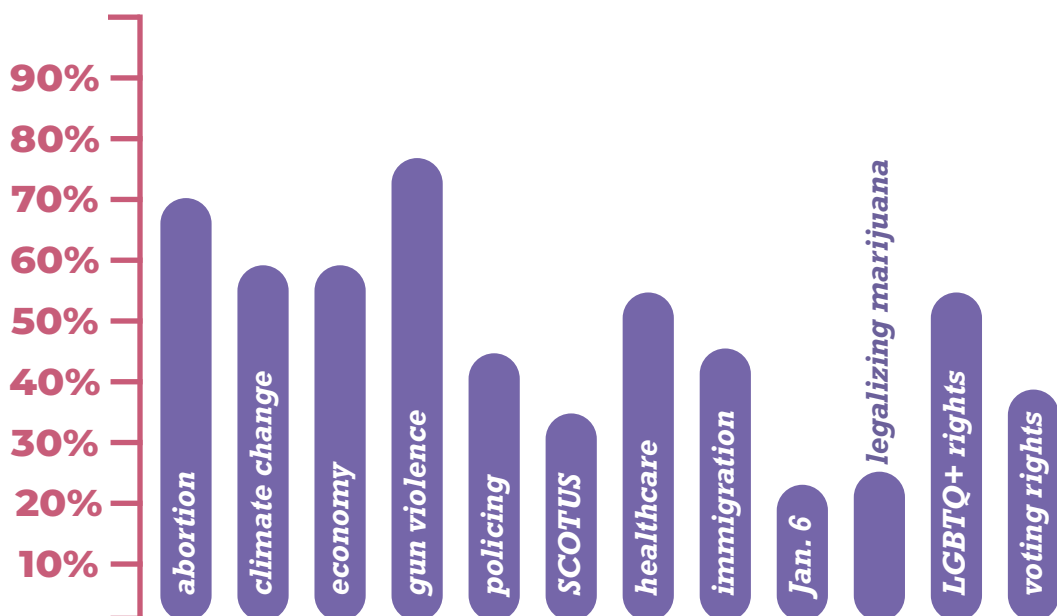
Are you eligible AND registered to vote in the upcoming Florida midterms election?



What political party do you identify with?

important issues

What issues are most important to you in this election?



let's talk politics

“

I feel that there is a lack of communication when it comes to certain issues that many people should generally be aware of. However, I do think that there has been progress when it comes to the education of younger folks in the topic of politics.

Noldine Belizaire, 12

“

The polarization of politics is problematic. It puts everyone into a box and doesn't allow for much political mobility at all. The extremism affects my decisions by really giving no space for the mobility and flexibility within who I can support and what hot topics I can support.

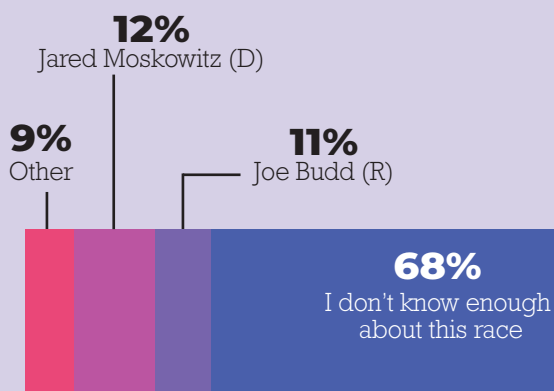
Maya Gordon, 11

“

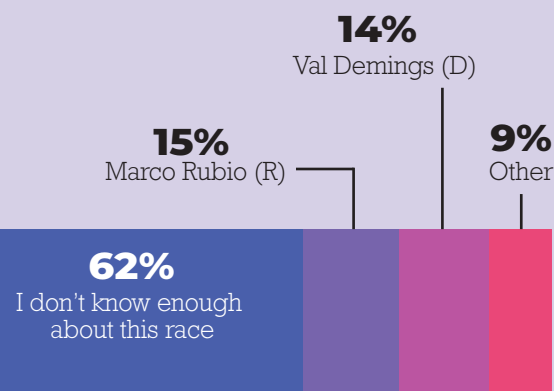
I feel like polarization is only natural in politics. Not everyone will always have the same opinions or more importantly experiences. My decision is based clearly off of my opinions, but persuading is a possibility.

Kody Brereton, 10

If you are not eligible to vote, who do you want to be a representative in the U.S. House?



If you are not eligible to vote, who do you hope will be one of Florida's senators?



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Students explore their creative hobbies and interests

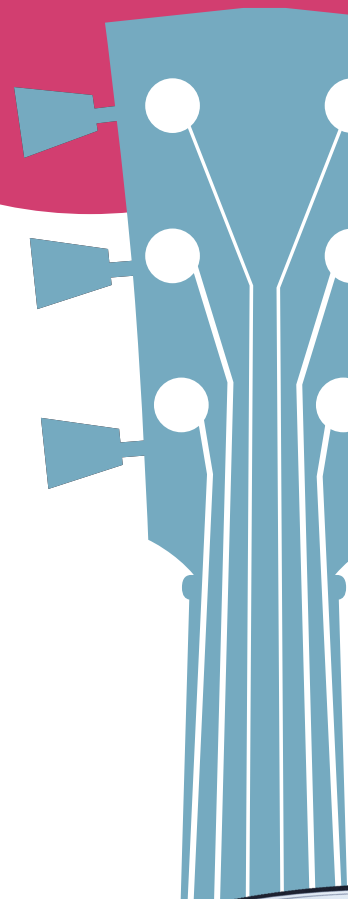
In the typical life of a teenager, school seems to dominate much of their time. Students spend a large chunk of their school hours learning core subjects, including science, English, math and history. Students generally find their required courses to be rigorous and time-consuming, but these courses are not the only classes a student takes in their high school years.

Teenagers are at a crucial time in their life where they are finding themselves and indulging in their passions, interests and means of expression.

Whether it be taking an art class at school, wearing clothes that display their personalities, having niche collections, listening to music that makes them feel seen, expressing their political views, or participating in other hobbies outside of school, the life of a teenager is way more in-depth than people think.

At Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, students participate in a variety of different activities, both in school and outside of school that reflect their interests and exhibit their personalities and views.

STORY BY Kate Becker



12 Passion for Fashion

15 Crafty Clothes

16 To the Beat of their own Drum

16 Vinyl Revival

19 Fame & Fortune

20 Getting Artsy

school of

Nicole Wang, 12



Ramses Cedano, 11



Violet Greenstein, 10



“I would say fashion really got me my confidence and it’s where I can define and express myself.”

Outfit

Checked Sweater Vest

Garage

Black Loafers

Yesstyle

Leather Jacket

American Thrift Store

Black Pleated Skirt

Yesstyle

White Lace Socks

Amazon

“I get most of my inspiration from street wear and like to vintage pieces from the ‘90s.”

Outfit

Fuzzy Graphic Sweater

Ranger Cartel

Leather Pants

Ranger Cartel

Brown Boots

ASOS

“My style is kind of ugly, but in the cute way, so maybe camp.”

Outfit

Black Zip Up Hoodie

Amazon

Minions Graphic Tee

Amazon

Pants

Depop

Snow Boots

Goodwill

style

MSD students express themselves through their unique outfits

**Emma
Wooley, 11**



**Aiden
Greenstein, 11**



**Cassidy
Tarr, 11**



“When styling an outfit I guess in a strategic sense, I like there to always be at least two matching, or complimenting colors in my entire outfit.”

“I plan on attending fashion school for college and possibly designing clothes as a career.”

“When I’m shopping, I look for statement pieces, stuff that you cannot find in normal stores and then pair them with basics.”

Outfit

- Stripped Knit Sweater**
Depop
- White Tank Top**
Aeropostale
- Brown Cargo Pants**
Urban Outfitters
- Doc Marten Oxfords**
Urban Outfitters

Outfit

- Stripped Button Up**
Goodwill
- Belt**
antique store
- Stripped Button Up**
Urban Outfitters
- Bell Bottoms**
Vintage Levi's
- Cowboy Boots**
Goodwill

Outfit

- Cropped Jacket**
Urban Outfitters
- Mini Skirt**
thrifted
- Boots**
eBay
- Cropped T-shirt**
homemade



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pretty prints



SPLATTERED ESSENTIALS. Junior Lauren Buchwald creates custom clothing designs for her business Splattered Essentials. Items sell for between \$26-\$50. **PHOTO PERMISSION** Lauren Buchwald



FASHION SHOW. Junior Eden Rothstein, sophomore Ayla Sachs, junior Lauren Buchwald, and sophomore Savannah Tenore wear their Splattered Essentials merchandise. Buchwald started her own business during quarantine in 2020 and has gained many customers since. **PHOTO BY** Carolina Ochoa Lozano

Crafty Clothes

Quarantine idea flourishes into successful business for junior Lauren Buchwald

Stains from colored dye, bottles of bleach and Pinterest design templates litter the creative space after a successful day of filling orders. Once the personalized sweatshirt is swaddled in a protective sheet of wrapping paper and placed in a plastic sleeve, the package is sent to a postal office and delivered to the expectant customer across the country. Lauren Buchwald, a student, daughter and friend, adds one more role to her identity: business owner.

Splattered Essentials is the customized clothing brand that Buchwald started when she was 14 years old, during quarantine. Living with type one diabetes, Buchwald is at an increased health risk from COVID-19.

Staying in the house all day, like billions of other people during 2020, Buchwald's life and routine were turned upside down.

Rather than brooding over the loss of routine and friends, she decided to turn this unfortunate circumstance into an amazing opportunity.

Buchwald took a keen interest in tie-dying shirts, socks and other articles of clothing, which sparked her idea to turn this simple arts and crafts activity into a business.

"I wanted to create something of my own and make something of my own that's unique and different than other clothing brands," Buchwald said.

She knew she had to do something to occupy her time, and creating a small business at home was the perfect solution.

Splattered Essentials features bleached and tie-dyed sweatshirts, shirts, shorts and more. Buchwald can personalize any article of clothing and add any text or design the customer wants. Her most popular items are her custom college sweatshirts.

"I sell clothes for ages starting at 8 [and] up to elderly

people. My grandma wears my sweatshirts. I can make designs where they fit to anyone," Buchwald said.

Buying solid colored clothes from a distributor, Buchwald then customizes them to make it her own.

During quarantine, Buchwald faced difficulties finding a distributor for her clothing and getting her business to stand out from the others also customizing clothing.

However, she contacted small boutique businesses via social media and made partnerships and deals with store owners. Splattered Essentials can now be bought in California, New Jersey, Chicago, Miami and South Florida boutiques.



The fact that I am able to start my dream of being a fashion designer as a teenager makes me think that anything is possible, if you put your mind to it.

Lauren Buchwald, 11

"Splattered Essentials is a trendy, affordable clothing company. The clothes are cute, comfortable and can be made to your desire," junior Eden Rothstein said.

Buchwald sells her products from \$26 to \$50, donating a percentage of her earnings to the Diabetes Research Institute.

"The Diabetes Research Institute is very special to me

because they have been there for me for the past 14 years of dealing with this disease and have supported my family and I through the way," Buchwald said.

Right now, Buchwald sells her clothes through Instagram and Tiktok, @splattered.essentials and her website SplatteredEssentials.com.

"My dream one day is to have my own store and design," Buchwald said.

Buchwald wants to major in fashion at Syracuse University so she can expand her business and her dream.

Buchwald's favorite part is seeing her customers enjoying the clothes they bought.

"The fact that I am able to start my dream of being a fashion designer as a teenager, makes me think that anything is possible if you put your mind to it," Buchwald said.

STORY BY Tatiana Ortiz

SOUND CHECK.

Chained Saint poses for a photo in a recording studio. The band consists of vocalist Michael Sorensen, bass guitarist Ethan Kahn, drummer Cameron Cottrell, and bass guitarist Sebastian DeAvila.

PHOTO PERMISSION
Patrick Corley

JAM SESSION.

Chained Saint practices their heavy metal music at Ethan Kahn's house. They typically try to practice at least three times a week.

PHOTO BY Rebekkah Sasser

ROCKIN' OUT.

Chained Saint rehearses at Markee Music in Deerfield Beach.

PHOTO PERMISSION
Patrick Corley



SOUND CHECK.



JAM SESSION.



ROCKIN' OUT.

vinyl revival

MSD students and teachers enjoy collecting and listening to vinyl

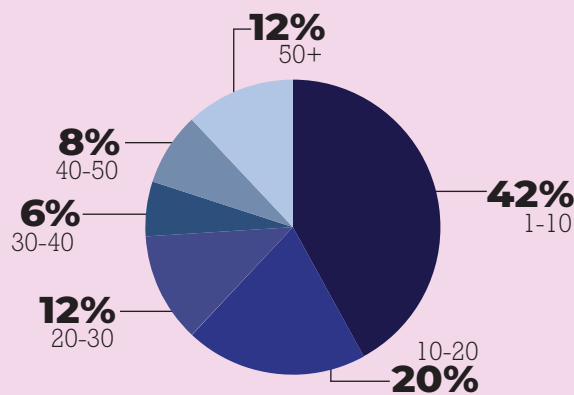
Making their substantial comeback from the 1970s, vinyl records have become more popular than ever before.

Many people tune into streaming services, such as Spotify, Apple Music and Pandora, to listen to music. However, according to a 2021 report by Statista on LP/Vinyl sales in the U.S., more vinyl is being bought and listened to in the 21st century than in the last five decades altogether.

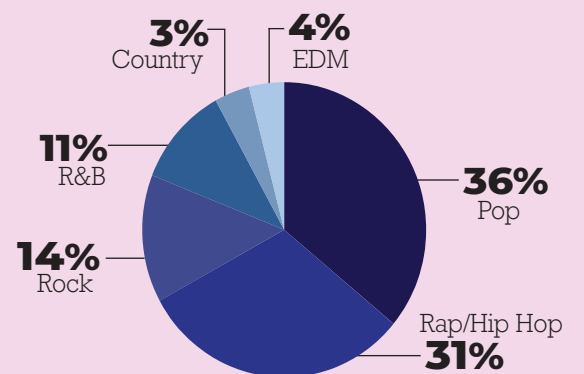
Today, you can find almost any album pressed on vinyl, whether it is on a standard black disc or a colored pressing. Numerous people, including students and teachers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, have begun collecting vinyls for a variety of reasons.

REPORTING BY Jessie Gesund

If you own vinyls: how many vinyls do you own?



Which genre of music do you listen to the most?



To the Beat of their own Drum

Student-run metal band, Chained Saint, works toward their official debut

First, it's the deep resonance of the drum that fills the room, complemented by the piercing ring of the crash symbols. Then, the lead guitarist starts off the melody as the rhythm guitarist and bass guitarist join in, harmonizing together to produce one simultaneous sound. You feel the reverberation of the music as the thunderous heavy metal music begins.

Taking inspiration from popular bands such as Metallica, Nirvana, Mastodon and Led Zeppelin, Chained Saint is a newly founded, hard rock and thrash metal band based in Parkland, Florida.

Michael Sorensen, the founder, rhythm guitarist and vocalist of Chained Saint is a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. After becoming acquainted with music about a year and a half prior at the School of Rock, an extracurricular school for young, aspiring musicians, he set his sights on starting his own band.

"I just wanted to make music," Sorensen said. "I found more and more friends and just kind of got them all together."

Around February, Sorensen recruited sophomore Ethan Kahn, who had been playing music for much of his life, to help him start Chained Saint. Kahn currently plays bass guitar in a different thrash metal band called Arsenik, but he was looking for an additional opportunity in the music industry.

"When I realized Michael wanted something serious, I really took the opportunity, because that is what I wanted," Kahn said.

Kahn now plays lead guitar in Chained Saint, in addition to playing bass guitar for Arsenik, who he has been playing with for about a year. Shortly after joining Sorensen's initiative, Kahn recruited Coral Springs High School junior Sebastian De Avila to play bass guitar.

Around the same time, Sorensen had met MSD senior Cameron Cottrell, who had been playing drums for nine years.

"I invited Michael over to my house because I have an electric drum kit," Cottrell said. "I was like, 'hey if you're ever down to jam [you're invited to come over],' and in a couple of days, he came over."

At the time, Chained Saint had another drummer, senior Jacob Herzberg. Cottrell offered to fill in if Chained Saint ever needed the help, but shortly after, Cottrell ended up taking over as the new official drummer.

Chained Saint practices both at Markee Music, a local studio, and at Kahn's house. Because all the members of the band are in high school, it is sometimes difficult for the band to find time to practice.

In addition to playing guitar and performing vocals for Chained Saint, Sorensen (63) also plays defensive tackle on the MSD varsity football team, so most of the band practices have to take place after football. While the group is sometimes able to practice at Marque Music earlier in the day, they often practice past midnight.

“

I just wanted to make music. I found more and more friends and just kind of got them all together.

Michael Sorensen, 12

Regardless of their difficulties, the members of the band still work hard to ensure that all of them are able to practice together at least three times a week, typically on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

Chained Saint has also begun to compose their own, original music. The recording of their new demo album began in early October. Although they are still brainstorming titles, they have considered titling their new release "Thirteen."

"We all have different ideas of where the songs should go but it comes down to on the same page. We all have to understand each other's vibe," Cottrell said.

Only a few months into their journey, the up-and-

coming, student-run metal band is working towards scheduling their first gig. Up until now, they have been posting several of their practices on their Instagram, @chainedsaintofficial, but have yet to perform for a live audience. While they have all performed individually, performing together as Chained Saint will be a new experience that makes them both excited and nervous.

"[It has been difficult to schedule] shows. Not a lot of people are trusting of some 16 year olds who don't have anything yet," Sorensen said.

Despite their recent setbacks, the metal band is working on scheduling their first show in mid-November, where they will be performing their new demo album.

Throughout the few months they have been playing music together, Kahn, Cottrell, Sorensen and De Avila have quickly become very close.

"I plan on being with these guys for a while," Kahn said. "I really like these guys, and I love music. I know I am going to do music throughout my whole life. It has given me a goal for my life—to make things happen—and I guess I am just more motivated for the future."

Although they are still in high school, the members of Chained Saint are hoping to someday make a career out of their band. Being in the band has already changed the lives of the members. For Sorensen, the band has been his main source of happiness and has taught him how to work better with other people. For Kahn and Cottrell, being in the band has given them goals to strive toward.

"I want to see how far we can go with this and see if we can get a record deal, an album or be on tour. It's definitely changed my life big time. It really keeps me down to earth," Cottrell said. "[To start a band,] you've got to have the passion for it. You've just got to find the right people."

Kahn is hoping to be able to play with Chained Saint for the rest of his life. The members believe that after their demo is released, they will be able to expand the influence of their band beyond just playing in studios and at home. Ultimately, the four musicians aspire to someday turn Chained Saint from an amateur band made up of high schoolers into an international sensation.

STORY BY Julia Landy



It is almost like an activity, getting up and flipping the vinyl, dropping the needle on the song I want to listen to. There's more to vinyl than there is to pressing the play button on my phone."

Haley Engasser, 12



I'll buy vinyls that I like the music on, so it is basically just a way for me to show that I like the album so much that I want it physically."

Connor Opdyke, 11



Vinyl is more authentic; I feel like you understand the music more when you have it physically with you."

Gillian Roth, 11



Kids stream music a lot. Because vinyl is a physical, tangible item, the comeback is the process of them going out and seeking records, as well as flipping the record."

**Coral Bachen,
English Teacher**

Fame and

Growth of social media leads to rise of influencers

Fortune

Fluorescent white lights brighten the room while multiple tripods are positioned in a semicircle to ensure all angles of the chosen subject are captured. Aesthetic decorations and products are cleverly placed around the room to promote a desirable and relaxing atmosphere. With a camera in focus and a smile on full display, the content creation commences as the timer counts down: three, two, one.

The function of an influencer—to convince potential buyers to purchase a product or service through active promotion—has prevailed for centuries; however, the term only received recognition in 2019 by Merriam Webster. Influencer marketing can be traced back thousands of years to when gladiators in Ancient Rome endorsed products, like oil or wine. In the 1760s, English potter Josiah Wedgwood provided tea sets for the royal family and marketed his products as having “royal” approval—this implied a luxury status that many came to covet and catapulted his brand to international success.

The evolution of media saw the rise in influencer marketing. For instance, actress Lillie Langtry became the first woman to endorse a commercial product in 1882 through a Pears’ Soap advertisement. In the 20th century, French designers Coco Chanel and Christian Dior revolutionized women’s style and served as voices of a new era in the fashion industry.

Moreover, the influx of trends and the advancement of technology has initiated a bandwagon effect for ordinary people who desire the freedom to further their interests in an open setting; by seeing how successful one individual is, others join the creator bubble in an attempt to gain the status and fame they have seen strangers achieve.

“Ordinary people becoming influencers is very interesting to me. It seems as though every single teenager on social media wants to become somebody to the rest of the world,” senior Alya Abufele said. “There are differences among all influencers, and I think there are just too many trying to do the same [thing].”

Highly influential individuals, particularly celebrities and famous icons, are known to boost the brand reputation of local to international companies.

Professional athletes are often offered sponsorships from multinational corporations, like Nike, Adidas and Under Armour. Considering the number of fans that tune in to watch sports games in stadiums or venues, any advertising material—whether it be on a jersey or a hand towel—is likely to gain attention because of the widespread visibility generated by social media. The idea of wearing

a product advertised by one’s idol reinforces the emotional attachment fans have with their favorite players.

“I often see products used by influencers and am compelled to buy them. The products automatically seem to have a certain credibility to them,” junior Abigail Melamed said.

Social-media influencers are relatively a new phenomenon. The COVID-19 pandemic was a primary driving force in the recent rise of influencers, as the general public relied on the internet for school, work and shopping. Many individuals trapped at home turned to creating online content to keep themselves busy and to try something new.

“

It seems as though every single teenager on social media wants to become somebody to the rest of the world.

Alya Abufele, 12

A new era of influencer marketing has emerged with an emphasis on everyday individuals making it big. Now, anyone can pick up a camera, make an account and begin their journey as a creator. According to the 2022 Benchmark Report of the Influencer Marketing Hub, an advertising services resource based in Denmark, “more than 50 million people globally consider themselves content creators.”

“I believe being an influencer is a real job,” Melamed said. “Some influencers are able to earn a hefty paycheck off of what they do online. The workload is too much for me to even think about since they are putting out five videos a day, promoting brand deals and always thinking about their presence”

With very little start-up costs associated with being an influencer, millions of individuals from all age categories have taken it upon themselves to go mainstream. Since the use of social media has become normalized in modern society, it has become substantially easier to share ideas across languages and geographic borders.

However, the rise of creators sparks the question on whether influencers are in the industry for the right reasons. Due to the dominance of social media in society today, influencers have become fundamental to marketing initiatives. In place of traditional marketing methods, like billboards or commercials, brands gravitate towards influencer marketing to gain consumers’ trust and money.

“I think ordinary people becoming influencers is a double-edged sword,” senior Adriana Pena said. “On one hand, it can lead to great people whose lives get changed for the better and who use their platforms to talk about important and relevant issues. On the other hand, giving people platforms who are not ready for that type of exposure or who use their platforms to spread harmful information and ideals can be very dangerous.”

Statista estimates that the influencer market has more than doubled since 2019, with its current value standing at a record \$16.5 billion. The financial surge in the creator content industry foreshadows a future in which all companies will move towards an influencer marketing approach.

“Influencers do create trends and influence the buying decisions of their followers,” Abufele said. “By constantly creating something, [followers] will be inclined to keep watching. After influencers create their images, they can then easily persuade their followers’ buyings.”

The greatest example of influencer growth is on TikTok, a video service app expected to reach 1.8 billion monthly active users by the end of 2022, according to a report published on the BusinessofApps.

“TikTok has transformed social media and given hundreds of ordinary people their fame,” Abufele said. “Most of these influencers don’t have an actual motive to make something of these products; they usually only care about the money; however, an influencer I have grown to like would be Emily Uribe. She’s inspirational by being real and showing girls that they should not feel forced to be something they are not.”

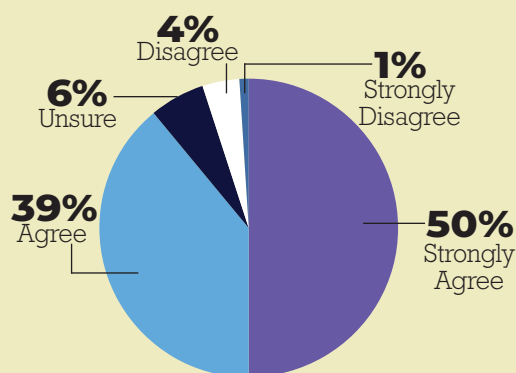
As technology continues to take the world by storm, the rise of influencers will remain a fixture in the 21st century. Brands continue to recognize and conform to the changing interests of Gen Z and formulate their marketing strategies based on predicted trends. The influencer phenomenon has introduced a reality that used to be unrealistic and has transformed the socioeconomic decisions and traditions of the industrial world.

STORY BY Ivy Lam
GRAPHIC BY Natalie Nguyen

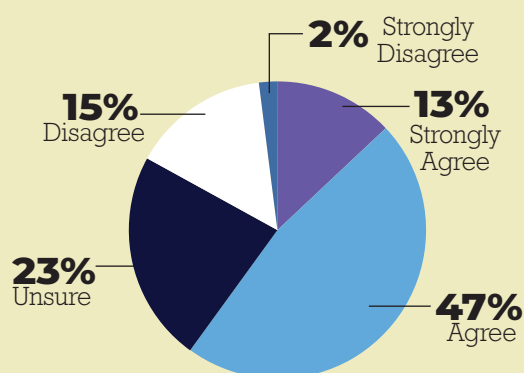
influencer stats

Survey of 380 MSD students shows impact of influencer marketing

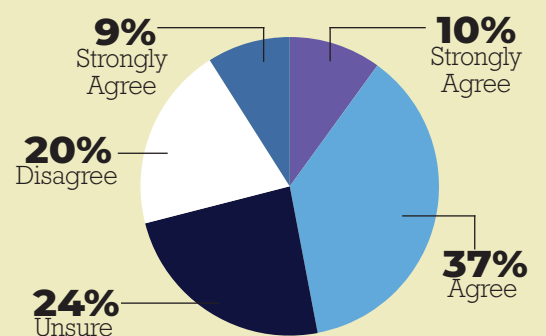
I actively seek out reviews before making purchases

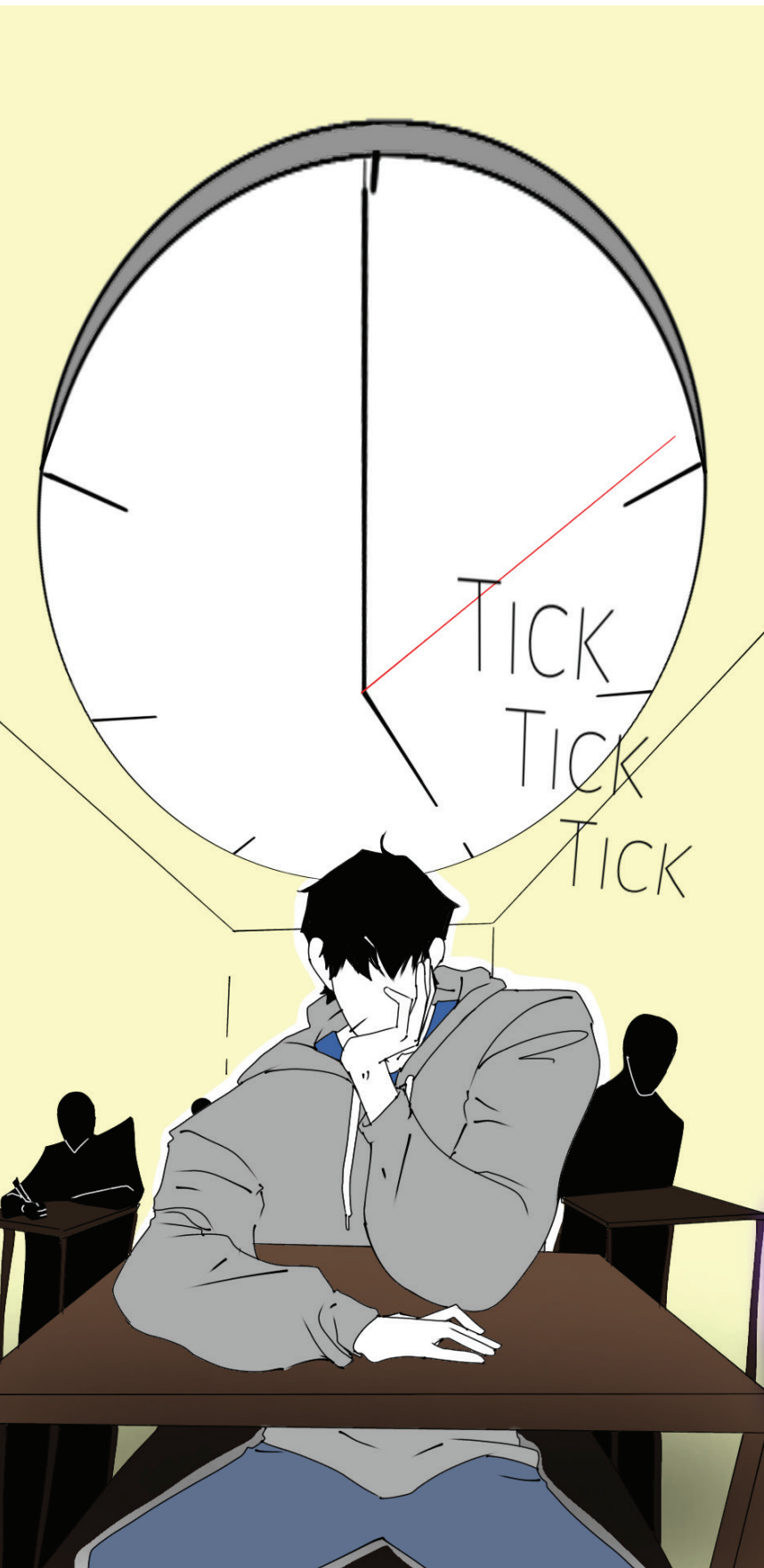


I make purchases based on online recommendations

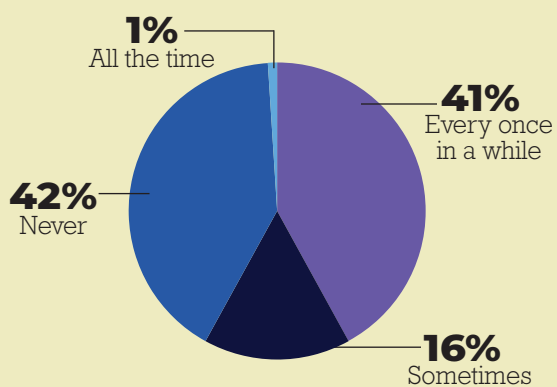


If my favorite online personality recommends a brand, I am more likely to try it

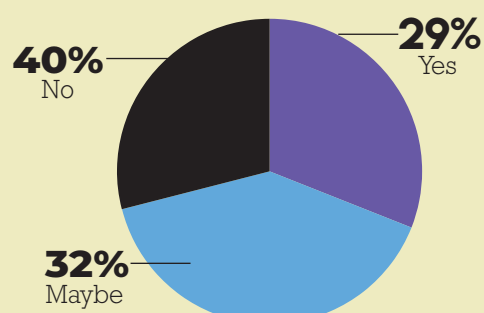




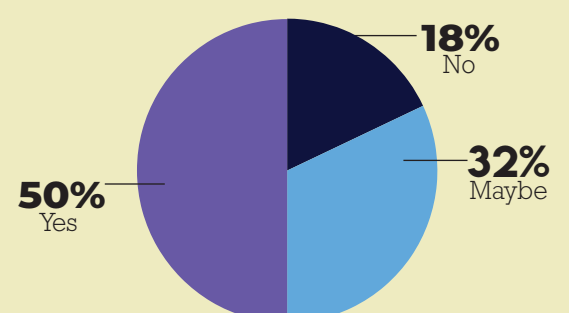
Do you subscribe to or purchase the products or concepts promoted by influencers?



Do you think a company's trustworthiness increases if their products are promoted by the influencer(s) of your choice?



Do you think being an influencer is a real job?



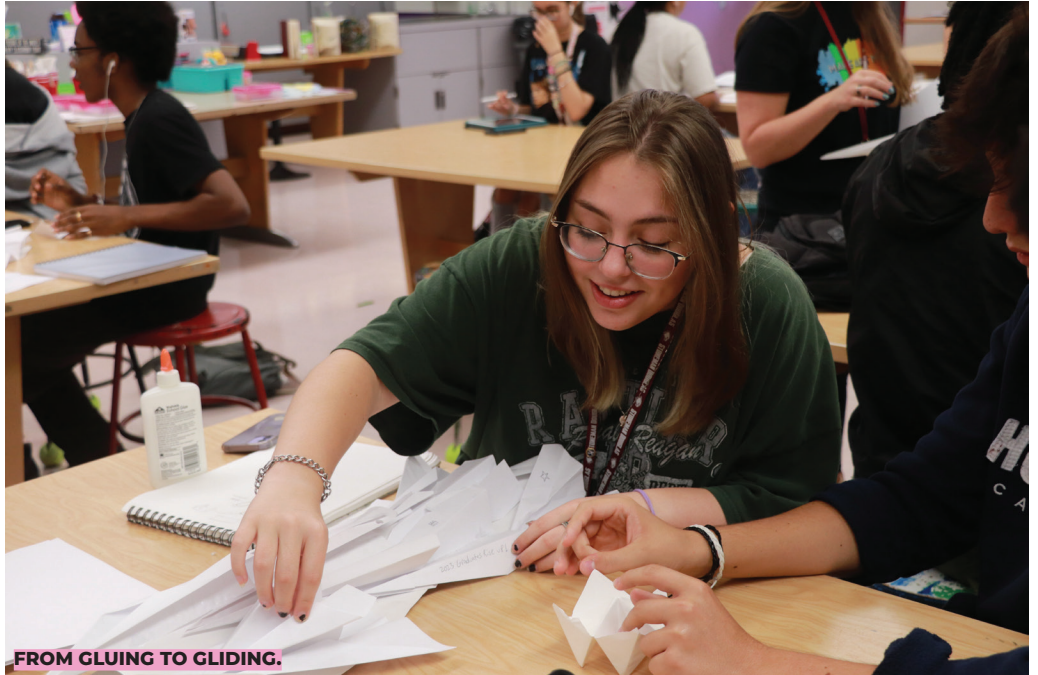
Getting

MSD students use a variety of mediums to express themselves in the various art electives

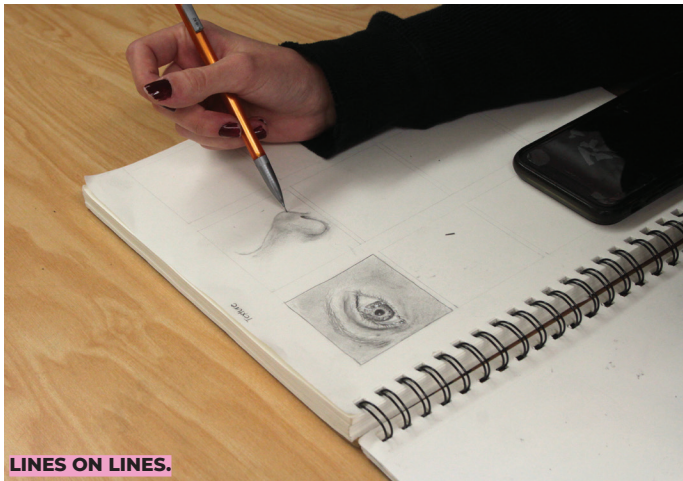
Artsy

FROM GLUING TO GLIDING. Senior Ashlee Widelick glues paper airplanes together with her sculpture peers to create a bunched up look for a window installation outside of room 302. To make sure there are no gaps in the display, sculpture students glue bunches of the air planes together to give the window a fuller look.

PHOTO BY Anna Horowitz



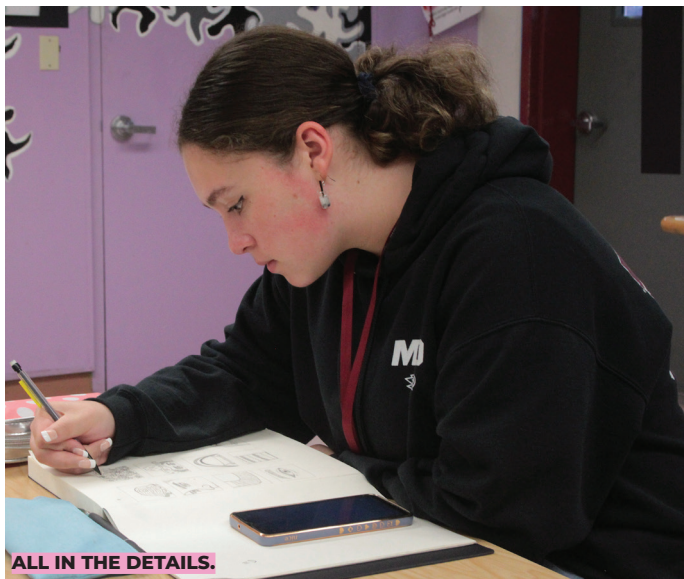
FROM GLUING TO GLIDING.



LINES ON LINES.

LINES ON LINES. Sophomore Bryce Smith works on her detailed texture drawings. She chose to do a focus on the textures of facial features in her art class taught by Randee Lombard.

PHOTO BY Kate Becker



ALL IN THE DETAILS.

ALL IN THE DETAILS. Sophomore Katie Cuadra works on her texture assignment. Students in art teacher Randee Lombard's drawing class worked on the techniques of drawing detailed textures in pieces.

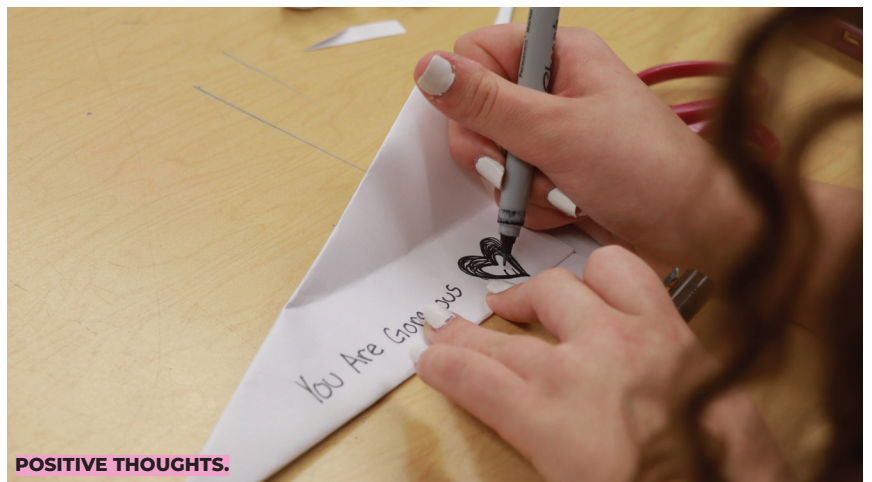
PHOTO BY Kate Becker



FOLD. FOLD. REPEAT.

FOLD. FOLD. REPEAT. Junior Ayur Patel folds a paper airplane and makes sure it is symmetrical. The window installation, according to art teacher Randee Lombard, will take hundreds of airplanes to create so the students must work quickly and effectively to make them all.

PHOTO BY Anna Horowitz

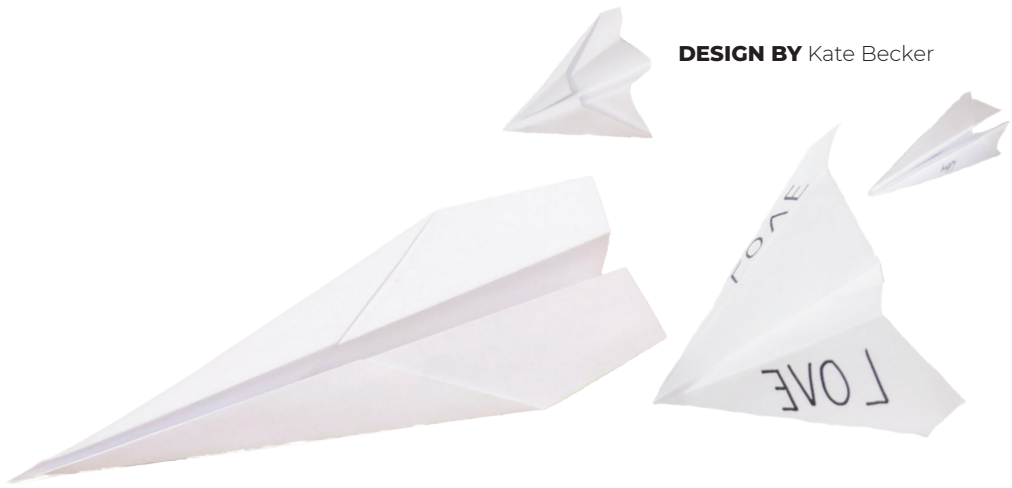


POSITIVE THOUGHTS.

POSITIVE THOUGHTS. A student writes an inspirational message on one of the paper airplanes for a window display going up outside room 302. On a handful of the paper airplanes that will hang towards the front of the window installation, students wrote inspirational messages on them to spread positivity.

PHOTO BY Anna Horowitz.





SCRATCH AND ATTACH. FOLD. REPEAT. Junior Olivia Campodonico attaches a coil onto their red coil pot in Ceramics 2 Honors. The class is currently constructing red and black Greek inspired pots to work on their coil pot skills and practice their scratching and carving techniques. **PHOTO BY** Kate Becker



THEY SEE ME ROLLIN'! Junior Avery Desacia rolls out coil to add to her coil pot. Ensuring the coils are an even thickness is essential to ensure that the pot holds its integrity and does not fall over or become lopsided. **PHOTO BY** Kate Becker



CARVE IT UP. Junior Maya Ramos inscribes her coils with a pin tool to connect the top coil to the rest of the pot in Ceramics 3 Honors. Lieberman promotes listening to your favorite music while working to channel your artistic focus. **PHOTO BY** Kate Becker



STAYING SMOOTH. Senior Melvin Morgan smooths the edges of his coil pot to avoid any cracking while the pot dries. Coil pots involve stacking long rolls of clay on top of one another to build a pot; any gaps in attaching them together the piece could crack and break apart. **PHOTO BY** Kate Becker



PRECISE SLICE. Senior Mathew Moreno slices a red coil block he previously slabbed for students to use for their pots. Moreno is ceramics teacher Jacqueline Lieberman's teaching assistant and helps organize, clean or make supplies students need to create their projects. **PHOTO BY** Kate Becker





Unwanted Search & Seizure

BCPS confiscation of over-the-counter medication and randomized bag searches violates student privacy

When district security personnel barged into classrooms looking for weapons, no weapons were actually found. Not only were students' classes interrupted, but their privacy was unnecessarily violated.

On Sept. 15, three Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School classrooms were selected between 7:40 and 10:50 a.m. to be the subject of random searches; this is a result of the new program enacted by the district on April 5, 2022. Middle schools and high schools across BCPS are subject to searches as a result of this policy.

Superintendent Dr. Vickie Cartwright announced the policy to parents via a video, which implied that all students in selected classrooms would be searched with a hand-held metal detector in an attempt to find weapons or dangerous objects. The video only specified unwanted items as weapons and other dangerous objects.

The perception of the way the searches would be conducted is not what played out in practice. The policy states that after students are informed they will be searched, they are to remove all metal objects from their belongings that could trigger the metal detecting wands. This way, if students only have non-weapon metal objects in their bags, their bags would not need to be searched, as there is no reasonable suspicion.

However, an MSD administrator confirmed that the students were not told to remove these metal objects from their bags and were escorted

out of the room after emptying their pockets. This allowed all bags to potentially set off the metal detectors when they were wanded, giving the district personnel their reasonable suspicion to search every bag, allowing them to rifle through every student's bag.

"This process will be used at schools throughout the District at random and does not mean that there has been any threat made on the campus when the random metal detection occurs at a school," a message to MSD students and parents regarding the random searches said.

This clearly suggests that there had been no suspicion that they were carrying any prohibited objects. The way the district conducted the search at MSD violated the wording of their own policy and the standard set that security personnel need reasonable suspicion to look through students' belongings.

The searches conducted on campus resulted in the confiscation of other prohibited items, which were not the "dangerous objects or weapons" outlined by the policy. This affected students carrying over-the-counter medications, such as Advil, Tylenol or Aleve. There is a clear difference between weapons and pain relievers.

Other students who were found to have

vapes in their possession were given the proper disciplinary consequences. Depending on whether it was students' first, second or third offense, they are given between two to ten in-school suspension days, among other consequences. Students with over-the-counter medications were given a verbal warning and a form to fill out to keep on file in the nurse's office, which allows students to carry two doses of over-the-counter medication.

There is no question that e-cigarettes disrupt class when students leave class to use them and miss important lessons. They are illegal for students to possess given students' age range. However, over-the-counter medications are not disruptive to classes. Students take their medication at school often

privately or quietly without disturbing class time. In fact, lack of pain medications can make the student more distracted, as anyone that is not feeling well is not going to be able to be fully focused on their schoolwork.

The confiscation of over-the-counter medications left students confused as to why their items were being taken. While the code of conduct does outline the district's ban on over-the-counter medications without the proper form, that information is buried in over 150 pages of code of conduct rules and regulations

for students. While this has been a long-standing rule, students continue to carry pain relief medication on them without the proper paperwork.

In light of these new random searches being conducted, students across the district should be better informed of what items could potentially be confiscated or lead to a disciplinary issue. The district is looking for more than just the outlined weapons and dangerous objects.

Students should be allowed to alleviate pain during the day without having to fill out seemingly-secret paperwork permitting medication in their bag. Any teen can go into a store and purchase over-the-counter medications freely, so they should be allowed to carry and use it at school freely. This is not something that should be prohibited by district policy.

The searches conducted at MSD were an overreach of power by BCPS, enabled by failure to follow their own search policy. Student privacy was violated under false pretenses and both the policy for conducting random searches and the policy for over-the-counter medication should be changed.

The searches conducted at MSD were an overreach of power by BCPS, enabled by vague policy. Student privacy was violated under false pretenses and both the policy for conducting random searches and the policy for over-the-counter medication should be adjusted.

OPINION BY Eagle Eye Editorial Board
GRAPHIC BY Liliana Griffis

“
The searches conducted at MSD were an overreach of power by BCPS, enabled by vague policy.”

Kids These

Kids are trying to look, act and dress older than they are in new harmful phenomena

Days

With layers of makeup, revealing clothing and the newest iPhone in hand, it has become a near impossible task to differentiate children as young as 7 or 8 years old from teenagers; they dress, act and look way older than they actually are.

For many children, the “traditional” childhood my older peers and I enjoyed has been altered. Instead of playing outside for hours on end and not caring about our appearance, kids these days are fixated on growing up as quickly as possible.

“Eight is the new 13,” Bill Goodwin, a marketing consultant who specializes in children, wrote in Marketing Times.

Our society has gotten to the point where this rush towards adulthood is no longer a sad phenomenon, it’s just what childhood is now—you leave elementary school and your life is an extended process of waiting to be a teenager. It seems like the current generation of kids are in a race to grow up and upgrade to teenager status, thus blurring the lines of what childhood truly is.

Walking around a mall, for example, it is not uncommon to see young kids wearing crop

tops and short shorts. This attire has become so normalized for younger children that it is no longer shocking to see.

While there are many causes for the rush towards adulthood, the main one can be attributed to the expansion of technology in the recent years. If toddlers are playing computer games, how can 10 year olds be expected to be content with building Legos or playing with dolls? The internet and television have only increased the constant exposure to commercialism.

It is not an unusual concept to want to appear older, but when it gets in the way of enjoying childhood, it can become extremely harmful. As a result of this phenomena, kids can eventually struggle with emotional, psychological, intellectual and social problems that can follow them for the rest of their lives.

In recent years, the suicide rate amongst individuals aged 10 to 24 has increased nearly 60 percent, according to the CDC in 2021.

There has also been a substantial rise in eating

disorders among girls in late elementary school, likely because of pressures from social media; Constantly seeing models who look a certain way can have negative implications on one’s feelings of self worth.

Drugs and alcohol are also seeping into tween culture; many feel pressured to try different substances in an attempt to appear cool, act older and fit in with their peers.

It is disheartening to see so many kids missing out on some of the best years of their lives due to wanting to grow up too fast. Personally, I feel very lucky to have been given the chance to have a childhood where I was able to enjoy myself without a phone. I was not worried about what I looked like or what I was wearing, only that I was having a good time.

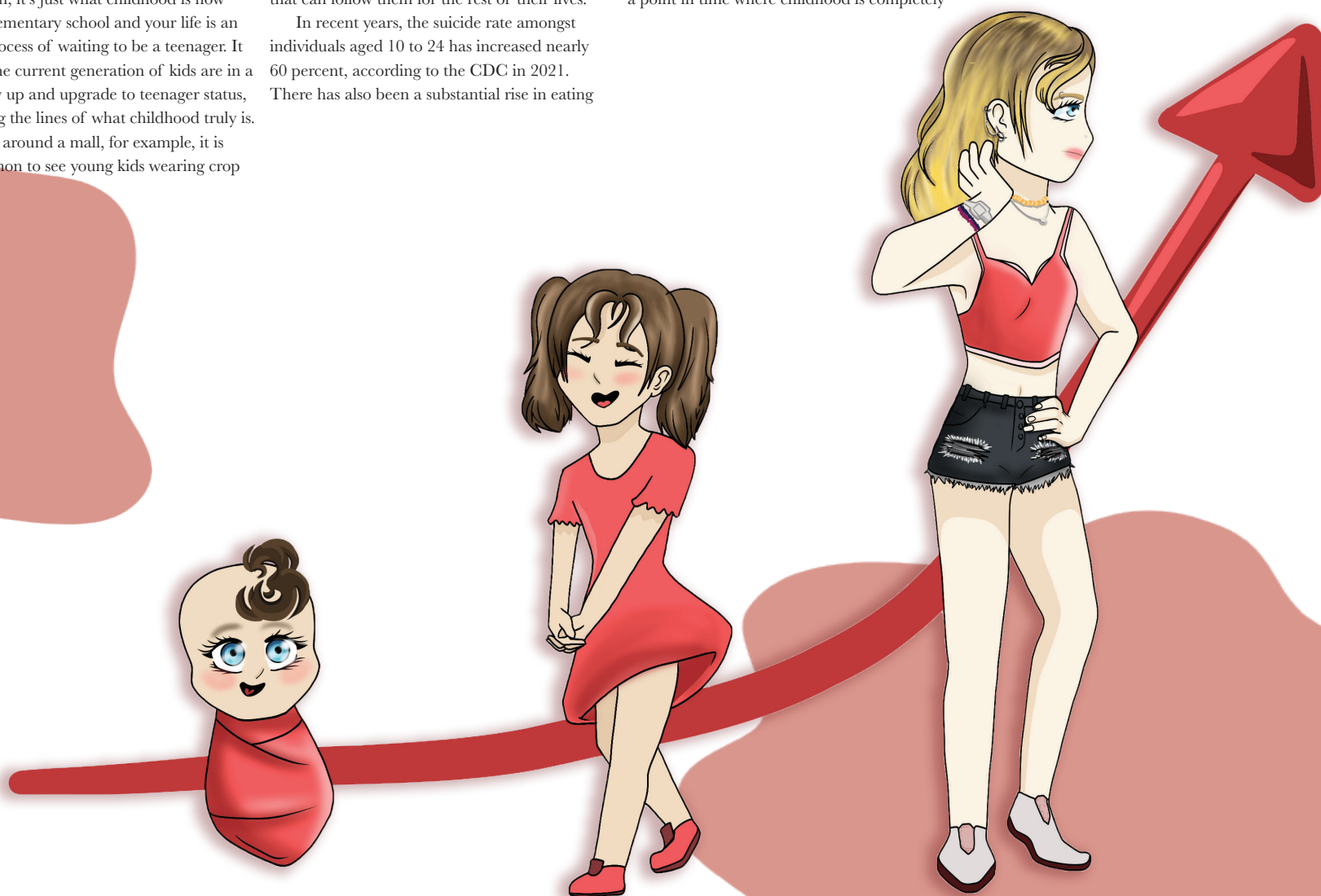
It is a valid question to ask if there will be a point in time where childhood is completely

unrecognizable or if it will even exist. However, there are some steps that can be taken to help children get the most out of their childhood.

For one, parents should listen to how their children feel about the issue. Secondly, parents can educate their children on the issue and help them understand what is happening and why.

Ultimately, parents should encourage their child to pursue their own interests, rather than blindly following the steps of their peers. Educating the next generation on this phenomena will ensure that our future generations will get the most out of their childhood years before rushing into adulthood.

OPINION BY Lily Singer
GRAPHIC BY Julia Landy





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STRUT AFTER STRIKE. The men's bowling team congratulates senior Ryan Terpstra after his turn in the lane. Terpstra was one of the many key contributors to the team's victory on Oct. 4.
PHOTO BY Sam Silverman

WATCHING IT FLY. Junior Collin Oliphant follows through after sending his ball down the lane. Oliphant scored several strikes to contribute towards the team's effort in their Sept. 15 match.
PHOTO BY Reece Gary

STRUT AFTER STRIKE.

WATCHING IT FLY.

Right up Our Alley

MSD bowling teams earn top rankings in regular season

Senior Ryan Terpstra reaches down and grabs his bowling ball, getting ready to throw another strike for the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School's bowling team. Up by just a few points, he seeks a big score to increase the Eagles' lead. With the sound of pins from other lanes falling in the background, he takes a deep breath as he prepares for his upcoming turn. Terpstra grips the ball and takes a great step forward towards the foul line, giving him more strength to throw. As he releases the ball down the lane, a powerful and accurate roll connects with all 10 pins for a strike. The Eagles celebrated their victory, a common occurrence for the skilled and proficient team.

Flying under the radar, the Eagles bowling teams are two of MSD Athletics most successful programs. The men's bowling team is having their best season yet. They finished the regular season in first place in the Broward County division, ending with a 54-6 record. The women's team finished in second place for the regular season with a 32-28 record.

"Bowling doesn't have a huge turnout like football games, but we do have friends and parents watch nearly all of our games," junior Manahil Kashif said. "Bowling is fun to watch because it's indoors, so fans don't get hot or sticky. You may not believe it, but it gets suspenseful."

Bowling works differently than most other high school sports. Instead of competing against a singular team at a "home or away" location, the bowling team competes at a singular neutral site. MSD's local division plays at Sawgrass Lanes in Tamarac, competing against six other Broward County school teams.

With several skilled players, guided by Coach De'Erika Carter, the MSD bowling team is one of MSD's best performing athletic programs. At just past the halfway point in the season, the Eagles secured a win percentage of 90%, beating nearly every opponent they faced.

Bowling at MSD is very challenging and requires hard

“ People do not know how much effort it takes to become consistent. It is not just a one and done thing. You have to practice consistently to perform well. all the time. **”**

Collin Oliphant, 11

work to be as successful as they are, especially due to the difficulty of their division. Nonetheless, the team has been able to show their hard work and skills on the alley against nearly all opposing teams. As of October 2022, MSD is placed first in their division, a consistent ranking for the team year after year.

Bowling standings are set by a record; however, it is categorized against each individual team rather than the entire match itself. For example, if there are six other teams

at a competition, and a team places second, they would receive a combined record of 5-1 for the event.

Match outcomes are determined by adding the scores from each individual team member, with the total combined scores being compared between teams. Thus, bowling has aspects of both individual and team sports, causing players to have to master both sides.

Although bowling seems an easy sport to become proficient at, especially by those that see it as more of a recreational activity than a competitive sport, it is much more complex. Just like other sports with playbooks and methods, bowling requires a substantial amount of strategy. These strategies include the evaluation of curve, speed and angle of the ball, all of which have dramatic effects on the outcome of each and every roll.

"People do not know how much effort it takes to become consistent," junior Collin Oliphant said. "It is not just a one and done thing. You have to practice consistently to perform well all the time."

However, strategy and skill are not the only aspects of bowling that define its challenging nature. Due to the individual nature of the sport, a significant factor of performance is a player's mindset.

"Having the ability to not get in your head is half the battle," Terpstra said. "If you rush, you will mess up, [so] you have to remain calm, take your time and focus."

As the end of the season the women's team placed third in the BCAA tournament and sixth at districts. The men's team placed 2nd in the BCAA tournament and placed 4th at districts.

STORY BY Ryan Shimony

HUGGIN' IT OUT. Defensive lineman Justin Valentine (55) and linebacker Zachary Kracjczewski (44) celebrate the MSD varsity football team's victory against McArthur High School in their first game of the season on Aug. 26. The Eagles ended the game 29-20.

LIFT OFF. The MSD cheerleading squad lifts each other up in a stunt during the Homecoming pep rally. The squad sported different colored accessories to represent their grade level, as part of the Homecoming Spirit Week festivities.

ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. The MSD junior varsity volleyball team huddles to discuss their game plan. Developing efficient communication and teamwork in their underclassmen years, the players are able to better succeed as they progress each year as an established team.

MEETING ON THE MOUND. Infielders of the MSD varsity baseball team huddle together on the pitching mound to discuss their defensive plan during a scrimmage. The baseball team practices teamwork and communication on top of their individual athletic skills, which contributed to their back-to-back state championship victories.

FLY LIKE AN EAGLE. Starting their season, the MSD varsity football team enters their Kickoff Classic game through an inflatable eagle. The inflatable eagle returned at several other home games during the season, initiating lively spirit for both players and fans in Cumber Stadium.

PHOTOS BY Carolina Ochoa



Into the Huddle

MSD athletes create sense of community through team chemistry

Fourth down and 5 yards from the end zone, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School varsity football team is ready to score. Down by just a few points and only a few seconds left on the clock, the Eagles seek an important play that will determine the outcome of the game. With fans in the bleachers cheering them on, the Eagles snap the ball and the quarterback searches for an open receiver. A strong throw and skilled catch connect, leading to an exciting Eagles touchdown. While the play would likely be attributed to the playbook or athleticism of the team, many players would say that the victory was a result of none other than the team's connection and bond.

Before each sports season, teams across the MSD athletic programs begin to form. Some teams undergo major changes, such as the loss of previous seniors, acceptance of new freshmen

or even the addition of a new coaching staff. Nonetheless, rosters take shape and the teams begin to practice and prepare for their upcoming seasons.

During a team's development each season, much more goes into practicing than the simple development of athletic skills. In fact, many

teams focus on developing skills that allow a mere roster of names to become a team.

"Showing up to practice everyday, encouraging each other and helping each other improve mistakes are little things that really build team chemistry," quarterback Ryan Spallina (15) of the varsity football

team said. "We are able to form lifelong friendships, call each other brothers, rely on one another, trust one another and help each other move forward throughout the season."

For many, teams consist of not just teammates, but also some of the athletes' closest friends. Outside of practices, many teams tend to spend time together to further their pre-developed connections.

"We celebrate victories as a team, and we build additional chemistry from other team bonding, such as team dinners and playing ultimate frisbee after practice. This allows us to connect on and off the field and work better as a team," lacrosse defender Alec Gordon (20) said.

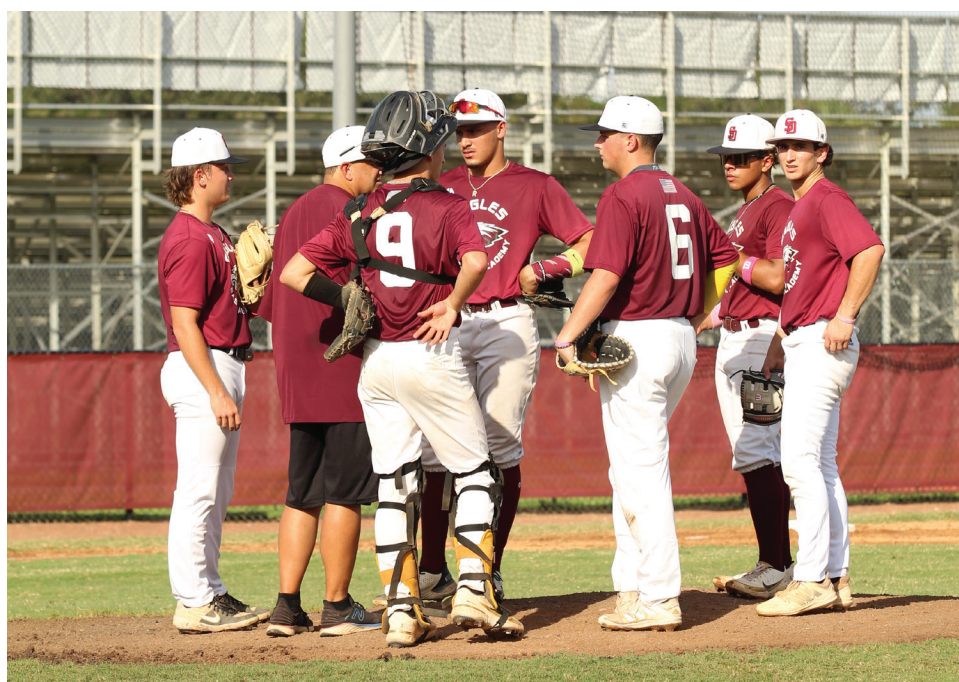
Spending lots of time together, teams ultimately form strong bonds, and athletes feel more a part of the MSD community.

"Team bonding has shaped us into a team

“

Showing up to practice everyday, encouraging each other and helping each other improve mistakes are little things that really build team chemistry.

Ryan Spallina, 11



by allowing us to get closer,” lacrosse attacker Lilly Shortz (20) said. “Having fun at the games makes being a part of the team special.”

Chemistry growth between teammates is a crucial part of the season for MSD athletes. To many, the sport they love provides more than just the sport itself.

“I am so grateful to be provided with what has become one of the best experiences of high school by MSD athletics,” cross country and track runner Tevye Singh said. “Meeting so many people and having great coaches ultimately changed my life.”

As many athletes show time and again that there are social benefits to being committed to a team, many also enjoy the athletic benefits as well. Ergo, chemistry between teammates aids team performance, ultimately accomplishing more than just the foundation for friendship.

According to a 2018 study conducted by the McCormick School of Engineering of Northwestern University, athletic programs across five professional leagues were examined for their seasonal performance through linear regression modeling. In other words, teams were observed to find if their performance benefitted from previously built chemistry from past seasons. The study looked at past season statistics of the teams that had previously built chemistry and made a prediction for how they

would perform in upcoming seasonal statistics.

If the researchers could better predict improved statistics for teams with previously built chemistry, then there is evidence that the teams’ successes are a result of such chemistry. So, a higher rate of correct predictions means that chemistry is a factor in team success.

The result of the study was just that. Researchers saw an increase in percentage of correct predictions; thus, sports teams were proven to meet expectations of better performance when having team chemistry.

The study’s message translates to MSD athletic teams as well. As each new school year brings a roster with the addition of new players and the loss of old ones, the returning members of each team, along with the coaches, take on the task of leading their teammates. As each MSD team connects more, they develop on the path towards success.

For example, in 2021 and 2022, the MSD varsity baseball team won back-to-back state championships. While the victories resulted from the tremendous effort and skill of the team, having returning members of the initial championship roster allowed the team to be better connected and prepare for the next one. As a result, the team benefitted from their predeveloped chemistry to bring home two consecutive state titles, a feat that other returning

“

We celebrate victories as a team, and we build additional chemistry from other team bonding, such as team dinners and playing ultimate frisbee after practice. This allows us to connect on and off the field and work better as a team.”

Alec Gordon, 11

players will attempt to continue in the upcoming 2023 season as well.

“The closer we are off the field, the better we play and succeed on the field,” varsity baseball infielder Jacob Herzberg (4) said.

While many fans see MSD athletics as the simple competition between athletes, the teams comprising the athletic programs are ultimately so much more. To many athletes, such as Spallina, the best memories during their athletic careers are not made on the field, but are made off the field with their team.

“My favorite team memory is when we were coming back from last year’s game against Coconut Creek,” Spallina said. “Going into the

game, nobody thought we could beat them. We beat them 32-14. Everybody thought we were going to lose, so the bus ride after the game was really a special memory that I hold deep inside my heart.”

As MSD athletics progress throughout the year, their continuous success will be shown not only in their athletic performance, but in their team connection and communication. The bond between teammates ultimately provides the groundwork for all of MSD’s sports programs, and MSD athletes are proud of the teams of which they are a part of.

STORY BY Reece Gary and Ryan Shimony

